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LETTER DATED 27 JULY 1998 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a joint Russian-Iranian statement regarding the peace process in Tajikistan, signed at Tehran on 19 July 1998 during the talks between Mr. B. N. Pastukhov, first Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Mr. M. Sarmadi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Joint Russian-Iranian statement regarding the peace process in Tajikistan

In the course of two rounds of talks on 18 and 19 July 1998 between Mr. Boris Pastukhov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Morteza Sarmadi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as in a meeting between Mr. Pastukhov and Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the situation in Tajikistan and the process of the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow with the active participation of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, were considered in detail.

The parties noted that, although the peace process had acquired a certain degree of stability, the situation in Tajikistan remained precarious. They noted with concern that the implementation of a number of the basic agreements, including some in the political and military fields, lagged behind the timetable envisaged in the General Agreement.

The Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran called on the parties to the conflict to intensify their efforts to implement the General Agreement which is leading the people of Tajikistan to a lasting and just peace, and stressed that both sides should refrain from any actions contrary to the provisions of the General Agreement. This process can move forward successfully only on condition of mutual respect and trust and the complete and timely fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the parties during the inter-Tajik talks.

The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue their endeavours to help Tajikistan in the strengthening of stability, economic reconstruction and the resolution of all urgent problems related to the consolidation of the independence of that country.

The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, while fulfilling their responsibilities under the Protocol on guarantees for the implementation of the General Agreement, and reiterating their objective and impartial position vis-à-vis the Tajik parties, call on third States not to permit interference in the internal affairs of Tajikistan.

The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran highly appreciate the contribution made by the United Nations to the settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict and support the idea of convening a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the guarantor States of the General Agreement.

The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran believe that there is no reasonable alternative to the full and timely implementation of the Tajikistan peace accords and invite all countries in the region that are

interested in the consolidation of peace and stability on Tajik soil to join forces.

(Signed) Boris PASTUKHOV
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Morteza SARMADI
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran, 19 July 1998